

RAILROAD STATION

DRAWER 12

SPRINGFIELD

-11 2001 0 8 2 0 6 1 2 8



Illinois Springfield

Railroad Station

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

SOME SABBATH DAY SMILES FOR HAPPY "LINCOLN DAY" ARE ENTERED IN THE LOG!

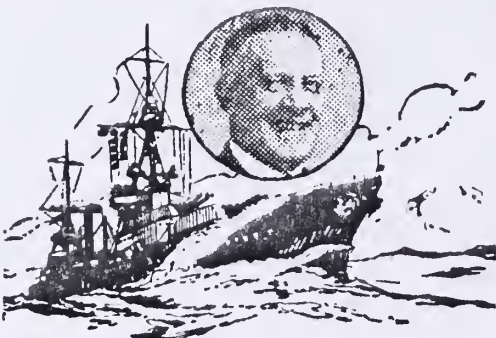
SPRINGFIELD is overlooking a great opportunity to present itself to the world in the words of Abraham Lincoln! The greatest human being the world has known gave this city the greatest boost any town ever had, and we don't use it!

Here is what every letter, every advertisement, every message sent out of Springfield should proclaim:

SPRINGFIELD
"THE INSPIRING CITY!"
Abraham Lincoln said:
"TO THIS PLACE I OWE
EVERYTHING!"

THAT QUOTE is from Lincoln's farewell address to Springfield! Isn't it strange that the city doesn't use it for the tremendous advantage it will give this Kappital of Smiles?

THE STRAIGHT STORY about Lincoln's departure from Springfield has never been told! We give it to you today through the courtesy of the best authority in Springfield—



William Dodd Chenery! It was at his Father's hotel—The Chenery House, located where the Illinois Hotel now stands—that Lincoln packed his things, went to Tenth and Monroe Streets and departed for Washington!

TELLING THE STORY to this Log, just as his father told it to him, Brother Chenery relates that his father et al assembled the several trunks and packing cases belonging to the Lincoln family in the hotel office, near the big cast-iron "cannon" stove! "Cording" the trunks with rope, Mr. Lincoln pushed bell boys and porters aside, explaining that he wanted the job done properly so the baggage would reach the White House intact!

THE CHENERY HOUSE, first called the "City Hotel," was built about 1840 by Joel Johnson, father of the late Major Edward S. Johnson! It was destroyed by fire in 1854! Repairs were made and the building sold for \$30,000 to William Dodd Chenery I. and the latter's son, John William, who enlarged and improved it, piping gas to the 130 rooms for illumination! It was one of the first hotels west of the Alleghenies to replace oil lamps with gas!

Funny enunciators consisting of long wooden boxes connected each room with the office! By jerking a wire in the room, you could ring a bell in the office!

MR. CHENERY'S grandfather told him that after Lincoln had "corded" the trunks that morning, he sat at a long desk in the hotel office, writing on the backs of hotel cards: "A. Lincoln, White House, Washington, D. C.," and then tacked the cards on the trunks!

A bell boy had rigged up over the desk a swinging gas light which little Willie Lincoln insisted on blowing out, to the discomfiture of Mr. Lincoln! When Mr. Lincoln admonished the lad, Willie retorted that his mother let him blow out the gas lights at home!

WHEN THE LINCOLNS were ready to shove off for the depot, Mrs. Lincoln, accompanied by the elder Mrs. Chenery, came down to the office wearing a bonnet and shawl! Mr. Lincoln insisted that the morning was too chilly and too damp with mist for Mrs. Lincoln to accompany him to the station! Mrs. Lincoln insisted that she was not only going to the station but would accompany Mr. Lincoln to Washington to take care of him! It required all of Mr. Lincoln's tact to convince her that it was best for her to adhere to the original plan and for her to follow him to Washington later, with the children! She remained in the Chenery House a couple of days longer with the two younger boys, Willie and Tad! This corrects an error in many papers, books and plays!

THE TWO SECRETARIES, Hay and Nicolay, and others of the party, went from the Chenery House to the railway station in Springfield in the large hotel omnibus shown in the picture of the hotel elsewhere in this edition today. Mr. Lincoln and son, Robert, rode in a livery carriage driven by Lincoln's colored driver, who had cared for his horse and who also led that horse behind the hearse that carried Lincoln's body to Oak Ridge Cemetery on May 4, 1865!

THE PRESIDENTIAL party arrived at the Great Western Station (now the old Wabash freight depot) at 7:55 a. m.! They proceeded through the silent throng of friends to the train platform, grasping at the hand of Lincoln as he moved among them! Ascending the steps, Mr. Lincoln immediately began his farewell address, and in five minutes the train pulled out!

That address conveys the most tender message ever written in 149 words!

LINCOLN ROPED OWN TRUNKS AT CHENERY HOUSE

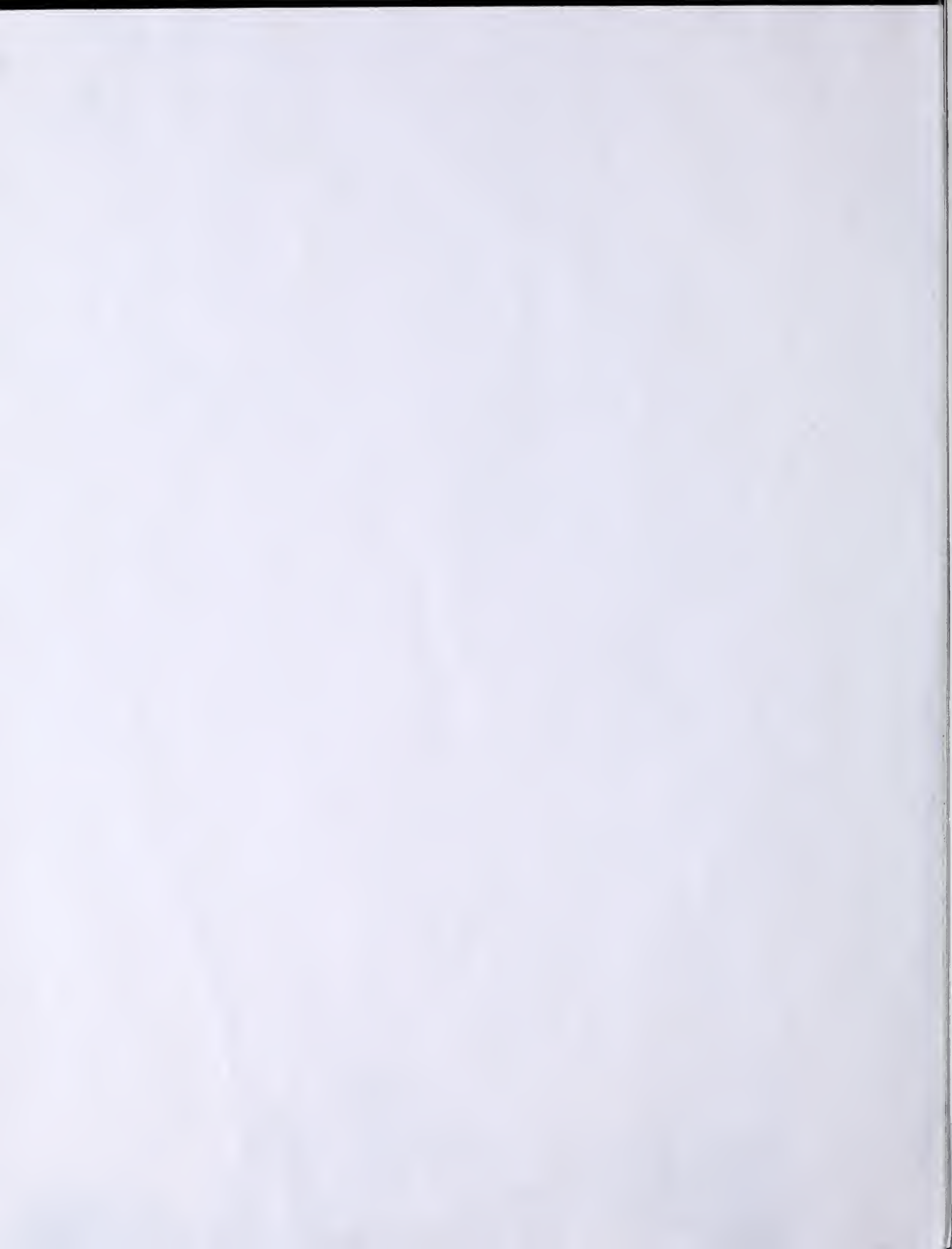
Family Rode To Depot In Hotel Bus.

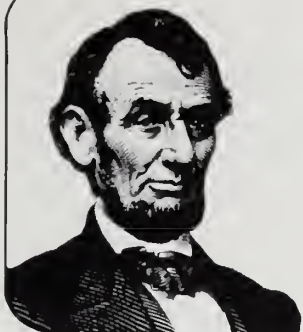
Many weeks before his departure for Washington to be inaugurated as president of the United States, Mr. Lincoln sold his furniture and rented his house and removed his family to the Chenery house, northeast corner of Fourth and Washington streets, where he remained till the morning of his departure. The Illinois hotel occupies the site.

The photo shows also the hotel bus in which the Lincoln family rode to the Wabash depot where the famous "Farewell Address" was made.

Mr. Lincoln's sturdy self-reliance was shown that morn when he refused to allow the hotel porters to "cord" his trunks but with his own hands tied them with stout ropes in the hotel office, took hotel business cards and on the reverse side wrote "A. Lincoln, White House, Washington, D. C."

First headquarters of U. S. Grant were in this hotel. Richard Yates and his wife stopped here. Troops en route to depots were reviewed from the porch. Stephen A. Douglas and John Palmer were guests here. The proprietors were William Dodd Chenery and John William Chenery, who equipped a large room on the first floor as a hospital.





Lincoln Lore

May, 1981

Bulletin of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. Mark E. Neely, Jr., Editor.
Mary Jane Hubler, Editorial Assistant. Published each month by the
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Number 1719

BEEN TO SPRINGFIELD LATELY?

The answer every Lincoln enthusiast would like to be able to give is, yes. Of all the Lincoln sites in the country, none is as important as Springfield. Lincoln's home, his tomb, his law office, the legislature in which he served, the state supreme court before which he argued, and the railroad station from which he departed for Washington are in Springfield. The Illinois State Historical Library contains the research materials that all Lincoln students want and need to read. The whole environment is invigorating and always serves to spur enthusiasm for research on the life of America's most important President.

Springfield's ambience has always been conducive to learning about and appreciating Abraham Lincoln's life. Those of you who have not been to Springfield lately are in for a pleasant surprise when you return to this Lincoln mecca. The

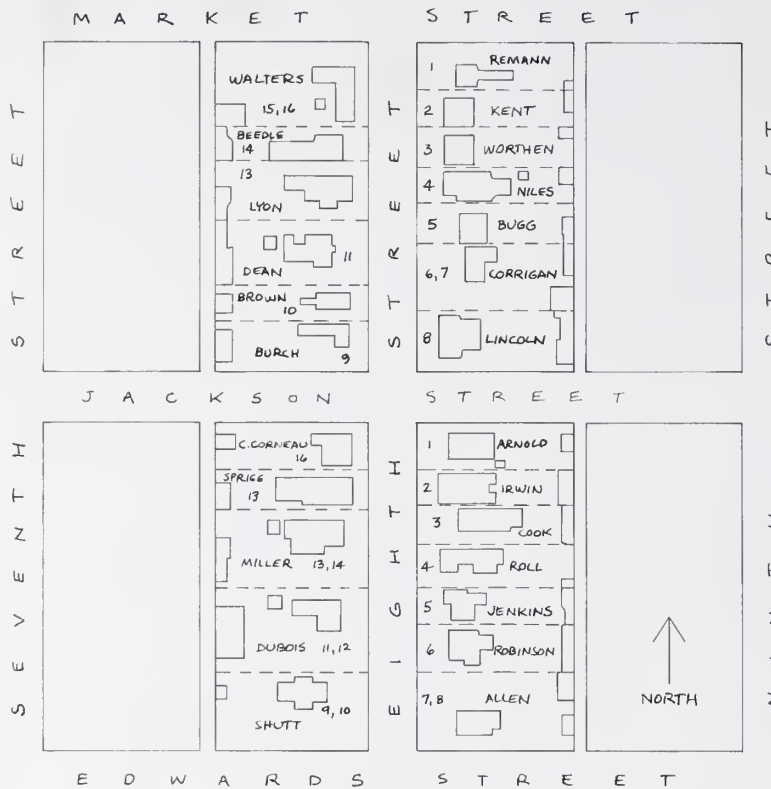
improvements in the Lincoln sites in recent years are far too numerous to catalogue here, but the most ambitious recent work deserves special notice.

The National Park Service, which administers the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, has embarked on a program to enhance the environment around the Lincoln home, pushing back the commercial blight which threatens so many of the nation's historic landmarks. The Lincoln home is not a brave little clapboard shrine bobbing on a sea of asphalt parking lots. It is not surrounded by tawdry curio-hawkers and phony museums which derive their only real element of authenticity from the genuine historic site they exploit and degrade. Visiting the Lincoln home consists of more than one briefly exhilarating encounter with an honest original preceded and followed by jarringly depressing confrontations with flim-



Courtesy National Park Service

FIGURE 1. William Beedle house.



From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 2. Map of Mr. Lincoln's neighborhood, adapted from the "Historical Base Map, 1860" drawn by the National Park Service.

flames and neon. It is, instead, a soothing, moving encounter with the environment of Abraham Lincoln's America.

Picket fences line the board sidewalks which lead the visitor through a four-block area the National Park Service describes as "Mr. Lincoln's neighborhood." At the rate of one house a year, the National Park Service has been restoring the homes around Lincoln's home to look, as nearly as possible, as they did in 1860. As always, the Park Service is willing to compromise with the inexorable ravages of time. Some homes are gone and probably cannot be replaced. Others cannot be reasonably restored to an 1860 state. In general, they will be more demanding of the buildings closest to the Lincoln home and allow more license in those further away. Near the Lincoln home, they may reconstruct a missing structure or two. All of the buildings will have information signs in front.

To date, the houses of William Beedle and George Shutt have undergone renovation. The Henson Robinson house is currently undergoing restoration (built in 1863, it is another of the Park Service's compromises). Others will follow in future years. Already, one feels more at ease in the area of the Lincoln home, and, when the project is completed, visitors will be able to stroll the streets of Lincoln's neighborhood much as he might have done himself.

Who were Lincoln's neighbors? George W. Shutt, who rented his home in 1860, was a young Democratic lawyer who spoke at a rally for Stephen A. Douglas in 1860. Members of the Shutt clan had been in Sangamon County for decades. Like many of Springfield's citizens, they had come from Virginia to Illinois via Kentucky. George's relationship with the other Shutt is not clear, but he had married a Virginian, Mary Osburn, and shared Democratic political sympathies with the earlier Shutt pioneers in Sangamon County.

William H. Beedle was also a renter. He made his living as a fireman, but little else is known of this man who was not a long-time Springfield resident.

Henson Robinson, on the other hand, lived in Springfield for more than forty years. Born in Xenia, Ohio, in 1839, he came to

Springfield in 1858. A tinner by trade, Robinson entered a partnership with George Bauman in 1861 to sell stoves, furnaces, and tinware. Contracts for the manufacture of soldiers' mess plates and tin cups during the Civil War brought prosperity. A Methodist and a temperance man, Robinson was nevertheless a member of the Democratic party while Lincoln was still in Springfield. The Sixteenth President, of course, never saw Robinson's house, but its style is in keeping with the other restorations, and retaining the structure helps maintain the urban flavor of fairly dense settlement proper for the Lincoln neighborhood.

Sarah Cook, Robinson's neighbor on the present site, was a widow with six children. She rented her home from John A. Mason and took in roomers to help make ends meet. Mrs. Cook was born in 1809 in Warren, Ohio. She moved to Illinois with her husband Eli and settled in Springfield around 1840. He was a hatter. Her husband died in 1853, and for a brief time she operated a photographic studio in Springfield.

Charles Arnold's house is near Mrs. Cook's but located on the rear of the lot it occupied in 1860. Arnold lived in the house from 1850 to the 1870s. Born in Massachusetts in 1809, this transplanted Yankee, like most of his fellow New Englanders in Illinois, was a Whig. In 1840 he had been elected County Treasurer, and he was twice elected Sheriff of Sangamon County (1848 and 1852). Public office and Whig affiliation as well as physical proximity made Arnold an acquaintance of Lincoln's. He was married and (in 1850) had three children.

An even more prominent politician in Lincoln's neighborhood was Jesse Kilgore Dubois. He built the home across the street from the Henson Robinson house in 1858 and resided there for most of his neighbor's Presidency. Dubois was born in southeastern Illinois in 1811. He served with Lincoln in the state legislature, and their mutual devotion to the Whig party forged a fairly close friendship. He named his second child by his second wife Lincoln. Dubois moved into the Republican party in 1856. Elected State Auditor that year, he moved to Springfield to assume his office. Reelected in 1860, Dubois had worked hard for Lincoln's election too, and he was to be sorely disappointed when he proved to have but little influence on the administration's appointments. Dubois was a loyal partisan but a man of narrow horizons who had hardly left his native state since birth. His request to have his son-in-law made Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Minnesota was opposed by the entire Minnesota congressional delegation, and Lincoln simply could not make the unprecedented move of appointing him in the face of such opposition. Bitterly disappointed, Dubois grumbled for years about Lincoln's treatment of him, but he did work for the President's reelection in 1864. He played a prominent role in Lincoln's funeral and was an active member of the National Lincoln Monument Association. Adelia Morris Dubois, Jesse's second wife, and Dubois himself remained friends of Mrs. Lincoln's throughout her unhappy widowhood.

Allen Miller, whose house is now next to Dubois's on the north, was a Sangamon County native (born in 1828). He and his wife Clarissa had seven children. He built his home around 1855. Miller dealt in leather goods, stoves, and tinware.

Julia Sprigg occupied the next house to the north. She was a widow, and her husband, Maryland native John C. Sprigg, had been a bank clerk. They had six children. Mrs. Sprigg herself had been born in Germany in 1815. Mr. Sprigg died in 1852, and Mrs. Sprigg moved to the house near the Lincolns in 1853. She became a friend of Mrs. Lincoln's, and her daughter often acted as babysitter for Tad and Willie Lincoln.

Charles Corneau's house, moved to prevent demolition in 1962, now sits next to the Lincoln home. He lived in the house from 1855 until his death in June, 1860. Corneau was Lincoln's druggist. He had also been a Whig in politics. Charles Corneau was born in Pennsylvania in 1826.

Almost nothing is known about Frederick Dean, but we do

know something about Lincoln's other neighbor across the street, Henson Lyon, who rented his home from Lemuel Ide. Lyon was a farmer who had resided two and one-half miles from Springfield after leaving Kentucky for Sangamon County in 1834. The home is famous for a post-Civil War resident, Samuel Rosenwald, the father of philanthropist Julius Rosenwald.

Many of the houses that stood near the Lincoln home in 1860 are gone now. The National Park Service may reconstruct a few of these, but most will have to be known from plat maps and census data, not from pleasant strolls through a tree-shaded historic site. In hopes of making this article a useful tool for the researcher, these now-phantom residents will be described in the following paragraphs. Those readers interested in this article primarily as a guide to the reconstructed Lincoln Home National Historic Site might want to turn to the last page for the concluding paragraphs on the site.

Moving northward from the Lincoln home, one finds the home sites of Henry Corrigan, Edward Bugg, Lotus Niles, Amos Worthen, Jesse Kent, and Mary Remann. Corrigan, born in Ireland in 1810, was retired by 1860. He was a good deal better off than his neighbor to the south, Abraham Lincoln. Corrigan valued his real estate at \$30,000. Bugg was a teamster. Born in England in 1812, he married a Virginian and had one son. He valued his real estate at \$4,000 in 1860, up from \$410 a decade before. By 1870 Bugg was a clerk. He seems to have been an ambitious and modestly successful man.

Lotus Niles, born in 1820, listed his occupation as "secretary" in the 1860 census. Whatever his precise duties,

they seem to have been remunerative, for he valued his real estate at \$7,000 and his personal property at \$2,500. Moreover, two female servants occupied his home along with his wife and three children. Amos Worthen was the State Geologist (he valued his real estate at \$5,000 in 1860). Jesse H. Kent was born in Ohio in 1812. A carriage-maker by trade, Kent valued his real estate at \$3,000 in 1860, up from \$350 in 1850, when he had listed his trade as "plough stocker." Kent had been a steady Whig in politics. The last house on Lincoln's block was Mary Remann's boarding house. A widow, Mrs. Remann had three children and rented rooms to John and Alexander Black.

Across Jackson Street to the south were the homes of Jared P. Irwin, John E. Roll, Jameson Jenkins, and Solomon Allen. Irwin had lived in Springfield briefly after 1837, when he laid bricks for the foundation of what is now the Old State Capitol. He returned to Pennsylvania, married, and moved back to Springfield in 1857. Irwin was an active Republican, an officer in Springfield's Lincoln Club in 1860. The Lincolns gave him as souvenirs some of their letters they were about to burn in preparation for their departure to Washington in 1861.

John E. Roll, born in New Jersey in 1814, had known Lincoln from the period of his earliest entry in Illinois. In 1831 Roll had helped Lincoln construct the flatboat he was to take to New Orleans for Denton Offutt. Roll moved to Springfield in 1831 and became a plasterer. He did well, valuing his real estate at \$4,750 in 1850, a figure well above that claimed by many of Lincoln's neighbors at that date. Eventually he became a contractor, building more than one hundred houses in Springfield. He was a steady Whig voter in the 1840s. The



Courtesy National Park Service

FIGURE 3. Julia Sprigg house.



Courtesy National Park Service

FIGURE 4. Allen Miller house.

Lincolns left their dog Fido with Roll when they departed for Washington in 1861.

Jameson Jenkins was born in North Carolina in 1810. He was married and had one daughter. Census takers noted the race of black and mulatto citizens, and the Jenkins family were listed as mulattoes. Mr. Jenkins was a drayman and drove Lincoln to the depot for his departure to Washington. His daughter married the son of Lincoln's barber William Florville. Solomon Allen, born in 1788, was a veteran of the War of 1812. He was a gunsmith. His barn still survives, but his house was demolished in the 1890s.

Across the street from the Lincolns lived William S. Burch, Ira Brown, and Ann J. Walters. Burch, born in 1814, was a clerk in a retail store (he valued his real estate at \$2,000 in 1860). Little is known about Ira Brown, Jr., or the widow Ann J. Walters, who had four children and valued her real estate at \$6,000 in 1860.

One of Abraham Lincoln's most notable qualities was his ability to transcend his environment. He was a common man, yet uncommon. His immediate environment is, nevertheless, always worthy of scrutiny. No one is completely exempt from the impress of his environment. Lincoln's neighborhood, it seems, contained both the expected and the unexpected. Many of its residents were substantial middling citizens who had steadily improved their economic lot. Men who had supported the Whig party predominated in the immediate neighborhood, just as they did in Springfield and Sangamon County as a whole. One might have expected the neighborhood to be more homogeneous in ethnic makeup, however. Persons born in Germany, England, and Ireland

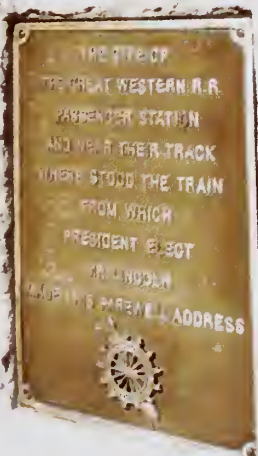
were Lincoln's neighbors. So were mulattoes. Springfield may well have exposed Lincoln to a more complex variety of experiences than has been previously thought.

One suspects that more Americans learn history from historic sites than from books and lectures—especially after their years of formal schooling are over. Developing historic sites as the National Park Service now does is more than a matter of insulating the surviving reminders of this country's hallowed past from visual blight and from commercial exploitation heedless of authenticity. By enriching the memorials and monuments with the insights of the new social history, the National Park Service communicates an understanding of history that truly updates what the casual visitor may have learned in high school or college. All Lincoln students should acknowledge the distinguished role the National Park Service plays in keeping Americans abreast of the developments in the historical field which might otherwise remain the exclusive property of a handful of professional historians and devoted buffs.

It would be a mistake to end here and to underestimate the sheer pleasure involved in all this. No one who would take the trouble to visit the Lincoln sites in Springfield could fail to be impressed with the experience. If you have a chance, go there and see for yourself. If the timing is right, walk over to the Lincoln home around sundown. Tread the board sidewalks in relative solitude after the roar of the traffic on the busy street behind the home has subsided. Look at Lincoln's neighborhood in the twilight. You will likely remember the walk for the rest of your life.

LINCOLN DEPOT

GREAT WESTERN
RAILROAD
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS



THE STATE
Journal  Register

LINCOLN DEPOT

GREAT WESTERN
RAILROAD
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

THE SITE OF
THE GREAT WESTERN R.R.
PASSENGER STATION
AND NEAR THEIR TRACK
WHERE STOOD THE TRAIN
FROM WHICH
PRESIDENT E. JOE
MR. LINCOLN
MADE HIS FAREWELL ADDRESS



THE STATE
Journal  Register

TRAIN BULLETIN			
DATE FEBRUARY 11TH 1861			
TRAIN	GOING	DUE	REPORTED
SPECIAL A. Lincoln	STATE LINE	8:00 AM	ON TIME
MAIL	QUINCY	10:00 AM	ON TIME
MAIL	MAYSVILLE	1:00 PM	DELAYED
EXPRESS & MAIL	DECATUR	3:00 PM	ON TIME

The Great Western Railroad Depot, known as the Lincoln Depot, is the site where Abraham Lincoln boarded a train on February 11, 1861, bound for Washington, D.C., to be inaugurated 16th President of the United States.

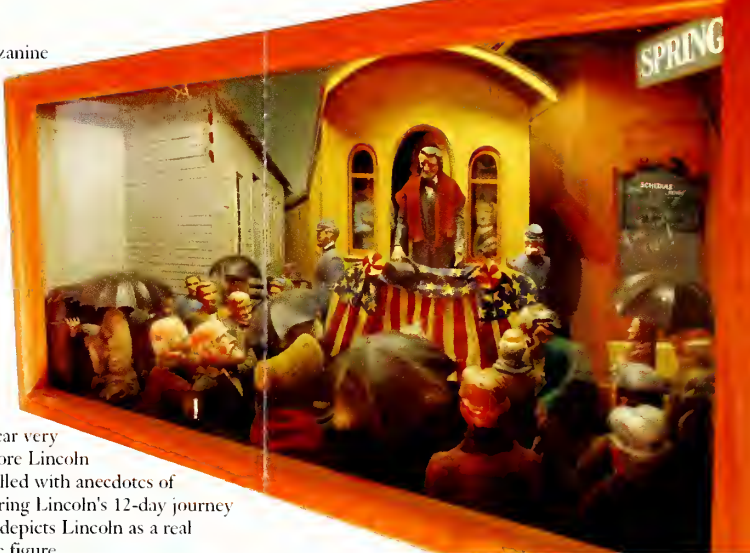
The day was dismal and gray, with a constant chilling drizzle. Lincoln faced an uncertain future filled with the turmoil of a nation on the brink of civil war. As he bade farewell to the Springfield he loved so dearly, the moment was filled with warm memories and a reminder as well of the emptiness left by the death of his young son Eddie. Lincoln's concise and emotional goodbye on that occasion ranks in eloquence with the Gettysburg Address. His words, known as the Farewell Address, underline how much of Springfield, Illinois, Lincoln took with him to his new home in Washington, D. C.

Visitors enter on the main floor of the Depot, a typical 19th century train station. The ticket cage is in the center, the gentlemen's waiting room on the east and the ladies' on the west, away from the language and tobacco spitting of the men.



Photographs on the mezzanine level lead the visitor on a journey through some of Lincoln's life in Springfield—the places he lived and the friends he left behind. A diorama whimsically depicts his departure from Springfield.

On the second floor, a state of the art video, narrated by National Public Radio journalist Scott Simon, is shown through the window of a Pennsylvania railroad car very much like the one that bore Lincoln eastward. The video is filled with anecdotes of events that happened during Lincoln's 12-day journey to the White House and depicts Lincoln as a real person, not just a historic figure.



THE BUILDING

Built in 1852, the Great Western Depot served as both a freight and passenger station as well as general offices of the railroad. In 1856, the railroad rented a lamb and pork packing house one block north and made it into a freight depot. The following year, the Great Western Depot was remodeled for use as a passenger station and offices, rating a lengthy notice in the local newspapers. The Depot continued in this use until 1868, when an elegant new station, to better accommodate increasing numbers of passengers, was built at Tenth & Washington Streets. It then ceased to function as a station and was used for a variety of purposes by the railroad. The new station was torn down in 1941.

Note: The funeral train, bearing Lincoln's body to its final resting place, arrived in Springfield at the site of the present AMTRAK station on Third Street between Washington and Jefferson Streets.

THE FAREWELL ADDRESS

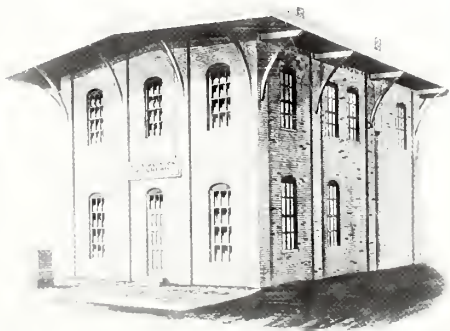
My friends,

No one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feelings of sadness at this parting. To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young man to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of the Divine Being, who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail. Trusting in Him, who can go with me, and remain with you and be everywhere for good. Let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell.

A. Lincoln.



The Lincoln Depot is located at
10th & Monroe Streets
Springfield, Illinois



THE STATE

Journal Register

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RAILROAD STATION

DRAWER 12

SPRINGFIELD

